



NEWS RELEASE



For Release: Tuesday, August 19, 2014

14-1563-CHI

MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Chicago, Ill.

Technical information: (312) 353-1880 • BLSInfoChicago@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/regions/midwest/

Media contact: (312) 353-1138

Consumer Price Index, Milwaukee-Racine – First Half 2014

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Milwaukee-Racine area rose 1.1 percent from the first half of 2013 to the first half of 2014, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer stated that the energy index was 3.6 percent higher compared to its first half 2013 level, primarily due to increases in costs for utility (piped) gas service. Food prices were up 1.2 percent compared to their first half 2013 levels while the index for all items less food and energy increased 0.6 percent. Among the categories within the all items less food and energy index, prices for shelter, medical care, and education and communication were higher over the year.

Food

Food prices rose 1.2 percent over the year compared to their 2.7 percent increase in the previous annual period (first half of 2012 to first half of 2013). Prices for food at home (groceries) were 0.7 percent higher compared to their first half 2013 averages and food away from home costs (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) rose 2.2 percent over the year.

Energy

The energy index advanced 3.6 percent from the first half of 2013 to the first half of 2014. Within the energy category, the index for utility (piped) gas service rose 33.2 percent and was responsible for most of this increase. Electricity costs were up 1.3 percent over the year while prices for gasoline in the first half of 2014 were 2.5 percent below their first half 2013 averages.

All items less food and energy

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 0.6 percent. Among the index's components, higher costs were recorded for shelter (1.2 percent), medical care (2.2 percent), and education and communication (0.8 percent).

The second half 2014 Consumer Price Index for Milwaukee-Racine is scheduled to be released in February 2015.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 88 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 29 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 4,000 housing units and approximately 26,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The Milwaukee-Racine, Wis., consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Washington, and Waukesha Counties in Wisconsin

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for annual averages and percent changes for selected periodsMilwaukee-Racine, WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

| Item and Group | Annual average indexes | | Percent change 2012 to 2013 |
|---|------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| | 2012 | 2013 | |
| Expenditure category | | | |
| All Items | 221.143 | 225.061 | 1.8 |
| All items (1967=100)..... | 683.024 | 695.125 | |
| Food and beverages | 236.138 | 241.396 | 2.2 |
| Food | 239.563 | 245.376 | 2.4 |
| Food at home..... | 236.634 | 241.069 | 1.9 |
| Food away from home | 244.409 | 251.875 | 3.1 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 205.537 | 204.062 | -0.7 |
| Housing | 204.662 | 207.468 | 1.4 |
| Shelter | 244.666 | 249.496 | 2.0 |
| Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾ | 226.706 | 231.690 | 2.2 |
| Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)} | 260.421 | 265.361 | 1.9 |
| Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)} | 260.421 | 265.361 | 1.9 |
| Fuels and utilities..... | 202.701 | 208.597 | 2.9 |
| Household energy..... | 170.348 | 173.590 | 1.9 |
| Energy services ⁽¹⁾ | 174.543 | 177.974 | 2.0 |
| Electricity ⁽¹⁾ | 200.152 | 210.530 | 5.2 |
| Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾ | 125.474 | 119.383 | -4.9 |
| Household furnishings and operations | 106.579 | 102.395 | -3.9 |
| Apparel..... | 133.215 | 139.807 | 4.9 |
| Transportation | 207.468 | 207.285 | -0.1 |
| Private transportation | 199.917 | 198.458 | -0.7 |
| Motor fuel..... | 319.715 | 311.313 | -2.6 |
| Gasoline (all types) | 316.568 | 307.864 | -2.7 |
| Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽³⁾ | 322.319 | 311.239 | -3.4 |
| Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(3) (4)} | 330.901 | 325.903 | -1.5 |
| Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽³⁾ | 274.039 | 274.845 | 0.3 |
| Medical care | 444.698 | 468.166 | 5.3 |
| Recreation ⁽⁵⁾ | 113.646 | 114.849 | 1.1 |
| Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾ | 145.670 | 150.041 | 3.0 |
| Other goods and services | 377.845 | 377.308 | -0.1 |
| Commodity and service group | | | |
| All Items | 221.143 | 225.061 | 1.8 |
| Commodities | 182.541 | 183.965 | 0.8 |
| Commodities less food & beverages | 157.031 | 156.965 | 0.0 |
| Nondurables less food & beverages | 215.794 | 217.063 | 0.6 |

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for annual averages and percent changes for selected periodsMilwaukee-Racine, WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

| Item and Group | Annual average indexes | | Percent change 2012 to 2013 |
|--|------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| | 2012 | 2013 | |
| Durables | 104.327 | 103.013 | -1.3 |
| Services | 257.907 | 264.203 | 2.4 |
| Special aggregate indexes | | | |
| All items less medical care..... | 211.299 | 214.376 | 1.5 |
| All items less shelter | 214.494 | 218.186 | 1.7 |
| Commodities less food..... | 158.994 | 158.888 | -0.1 |
| Nondurables..... | 228.366 | 231.436 | 1.3 |
| Nondurables less food | 214.865 | 215.981 | 0.5 |
| Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾ | 284.956 | 293.173 | 2.9 |
| Services less medical care services | 242.922 | 247.974 | 2.1 |
| Energy..... | 237.427 | 235.688 | -0.7 |
| All items less energy | 221.724 | 226.266 | 2.0 |
| All items less food and energy | 219.601 | 223.950 | 2.0 |

⁽¹⁾ This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

⁽²⁾ Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

⁽³⁾ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁽⁴⁾ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

⁽⁵⁾ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

Table 2. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periodsMilwaukee-Racine, WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

| Item and Group | Semiannual average indexes | | | Percent change to 1st half 2014 from- | |
|---|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|--|---------------|
| | 1st half 2013 | 2nd half 2013 | 1st half 2014 | 1st half 2013 | 2nd half 2013 |
| Expenditure category | | | | | |
| All Items | 225.417 | 224.705 | 228.005 | 1.1 | 1.5 |
| All items (1967=100)..... | 696.224 | 694.026 | 704.218 | - | - |
| Food and beverages | 240.873 | 241.920 | 243.557 | 1.1 | 0.7 |
| Food | 244.753 | 245.998 | 247.781 | 1.2 | 0.7 |
| Food at home..... | 240.905 | 241.233 | 242.601 | 0.7 | 0.6 |
| Food away from home | 250.529 | 253.221 | 256.070 | 2.2 | 1.1 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 204.762 | 203.361 | 203.568 | -0.6 | 0.1 |
| Housing | 207.797 | 207.139 | 212.466 | 2.2 | 2.6 |
| Shelter | 249.176 | 249.815 | 252.134 | 1.2 | 0.9 |
| Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾ | 230.755 | 232.625 | 235.507 | 2.1 | 1.2 |
| Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)} | 264.614 | 266.109 | 268.077 | 1.3 | 0.7 |
| Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)} | 264.614 | 266.109 | 268.077 | 1.3 | 0.7 |
| Fuels and utilities..... | 209.403 | 207.792 | 236.477 | 12.9 | 13.8 |
| Household energy..... | 175.120 | 172.060 | 195.061 | 11.4 | 13.4 |
| Energy services ⁽¹⁾ | 179.580 | 176.369 | 200.253 | 11.5 | 13.5 |
| Electricity ⁽¹⁾ | 208.715 | 212.345 | 211.408 | 1.3 | -0.4 |
| Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾ | 125.394 | 113.373 | 167.068 | 33.2 | 47.4 |
| Household furnishings and operations | 104.779 | 100.011 | 100.983 | -3.6 | 1.0 |
| Apparel..... | 138.533 | 141.081 | 139.733 | 0.9 | -1.0 |
| Transportation | 210.045 | 204.525 | 207.165 | -1.4 | 1.3 |
| Private transportation | 200.717 | 196.199 | 200.282 | -0.2 | 2.1 |
| Motor fuel..... | 324.039 | 298.586 | 317.331 | -2.1 | 6.3 |
| Gasoline (all types) | 320.787 | 294.940 | 312.626 | -2.5 | 6.0 |
| Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽³⁾ | 324.844 | 297.635 | 315.723 | -2.8 | 6.1 |
| Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(3) (4)} | 338.617 | 313.191 | 331.910 | -2.0 | 6.0 |
| Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽³⁾ | 284.329 | 265.361 | 279.858 | -1.6 | 5.5 |
| Medical care..... | 465.723 | 470.608 | 476.116 | 2.2 | 1.2 |
| Recreation ⁽⁵⁾ | 114.817 | 114.881 | 115.546 | 0.6 | 0.6 |
| Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾ | 149.910 | 150.173 | 151.100 | 0.8 | 0.6 |
| Other goods and services | 377.758 | 376.858 | 379.767 | 0.5 | 0.8 |
| Commodity and service group | | | | | |
| All Items | 225.417 | 224.705 | 228.005 | 1.1 | 1.5 |
| Commodities | 184.843 | 183.087 | 184.846 | 0.0 | 1.0 |
| Commodities less food & beverages | 158.346 | 155.583 | 157.340 | -0.6 | 1.1 |
| Nondurables less food & beverages..... | 218.680 | 215.446 | 219.409 | 0.3 | 1.8 |

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periodsMilwaukee-Racine, WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

| Item and Group | Semiannual average indexes | | | Percent change to 1st half 2014 from- | |
|--|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| | 1st half 2013 | 2nd half 2013 | 1st half 2014 | 1st half 2013 | 2nd half 2013 |
| Durables | 104.192 | 101.834 | 101.878 | -2.2 | 0.0 |
| Services | 264.060 | 264.347 | 269.102 | 1.9 | 1.8 |
| Special aggregate indexes | | | | | |
| All items less medical care..... | 214.851 | 213.900 | 217.111 | 1.1 | 1.5 |
| All items less shelter | 218.847 | 217.525 | 221.223 | 1.1 | 1.7 |
| Commodities less food | 160.258 | 157.517 | 159.199 | -0.7 | 1.1 |
| Nondurables | 232.124 | 230.748 | 233.603 | 0.6 | 1.2 |
| Nondurables less food | 217.549 | 214.413 | 218.022 | 0.2 | 1.7 |
| Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾ | 293.456 | 292.890 | 300.740 | 2.5 | 2.7 |
| Services less medical care services | 248.004 | 247.943 | 252.675 | 1.9 | 1.9 |
| Energy | 242.077 | 229.299 | 250.869 | 3.6 | 9.4 |
| All items less energy | 226.141 | 226.391 | 227.687 | 0.7 | 0.6 |
| All items less food and energy | 223.907 | 223.994 | 225.214 | 0.6 | 0.5 |

⁽¹⁾ This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

⁽²⁾ Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

⁽³⁾ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁽⁴⁾ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

⁽⁵⁾ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.